

PART IV.

ALIENATIONS.

INTRODUCTION.

Landed property held by individuals or corporations under Government, and allotments of revenue from other sources, come under the general term 'Alienations,' and these are in this Presidency of such extent as to require a separate division of this work. The term 'Wuttun,' which is used in a very wide sense, and which Grant Duff calls "a gratifying sound to the ears of a Mahratta, whether prince or peasant," includes all hereditary property of this sort, "and the holder of any such enjoys, what is considered very respectable, the appellation of Wuttundar." The terms 'Inam' and 'Inamdar' have an application almost as extended.

The reason of the unusual extent of alienated lands all over the Deccan is to be found partly in the fact that in 1818, on war being proclaimed against the Peishwa, the continuance of all wuttuns, inam lands, established pensions, and annual allowances was guaranteed by our Government to all those who should withdraw from the service of Bajee Row: while on his surrender all Jagheerdars who had adhered to his cause, and all Brahmins and religious establishments supported by his family, were likewise secured in their possessions. Under these two concessions "every species of hereditary right not jagheer, all other rent-free lands, all established pensions, charitable and religious assignments and endowments, were restored on the settlement of the conquered provinces" (Grant Duff).

Alienations may be divided into the following classes :—

- I. Surinjams, Jagheers, and other Inams held on political tenures.
- II. Service Inams.
- III. Personal Inams.
- IV. Religious Endowments.
- V. Cash Allowances.

These will be described in order.

NOTE.—Properly speaking, Jagheers which are entirely under the Political Department should not be included in this compilation, but the subject of Alienations would be incomplete without a description of these tenures.